

update

Vol. 6, No. 10

December 23, 1983

The night we saved Christmas

*Twas the night before Christmas, the hospital was dark
And believe it or not there were places to park.
The cafeteria was empty, no long lines to fight
And places to sit without squeezing tight.
The OR was quiet, the ER was too.
No full moon that night, the patients were few.
Those patients we had were all snuggled in bed,
Some of them talked and some of them read.*

*When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter
We raced to the windows to see what was the matter.
We pulled open the curtains, pressed noses to glass
And attempted to see through the snow's building mass.
The moon briefly broke through the cloud covered sky
And we saw that our picketers were waving goodbye.*

*As we watched and we waved who should appear
But a fat man in red pulled by a bunch of reindeer.
He flew over the hospital, boy he looked beat.
Then he fell to the ground at the ER staff's feet.
It took eight just to lift him and keep him in trim
And they slipped and they slid as they carried him in.*

*He covered two litters as they got him undressed
And now that it's over, I must confess.
I've never seen anything quite like it before,
They even had trouble getting him through x-ray's door.*

See Christmas — page 2

The spirit of

*The lab techs and doctors,
how they prodded and poked.*

*They stuck him with
needles until finally he woke.*

*And as he was tested I
heard him complain,*

*He had toys to deliver
before the night waned.*

*If he didn't deliver there
would be many upset,*

*Kids would be crying and
parents would fret.*

*All his pleading and
begging the staff did ignore,*

*There was work to be done
ere he went out the door.*

*But what of the toys that
had been in the sleigh,*

*The ones that were now in
the surgical bay?*

*The staff thought and
talked and decided that night
MedEvac would make an
unusual flight.*

*With shovels and brooms
they dug through the snow
And moved quite enough
so the chopper could go.*

*Through the back doors
they loaded bags full of loot.*

*Then they found a doctor
big enough to fill up the
suit.*

*With blades blowing snow
they took off with a roar*

*To finish up Santa's
unfinished chore.*

*It all turned out well I am
happy to say*

*The toys were delivered
before Christmas Day.*

*Santa left rested, a rest
overdue.*

*He even lost weight, he
ate wellness food too.*

*A few weeks with us and
he flew out of sight*

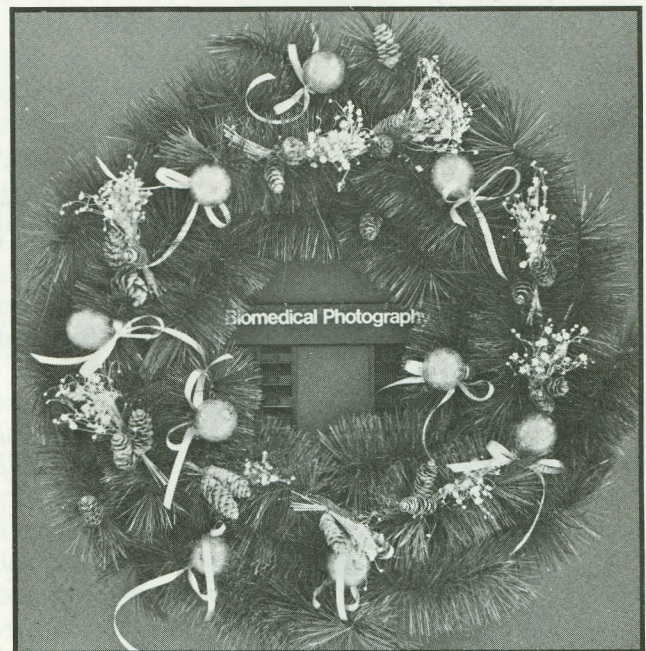
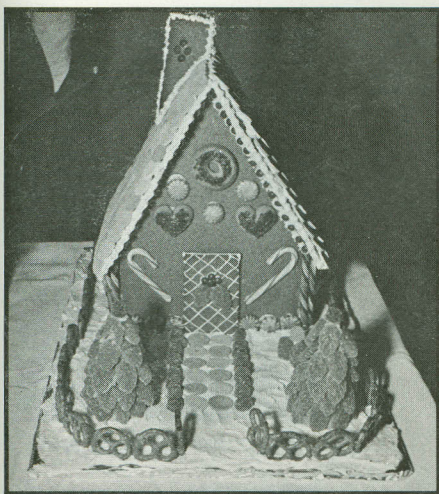
*After thanking us for all
we had done on that night.*

*It's not in the books but
that Christmas was possible*

*Because of the staff at our
very own hospital.*



the season shines through...



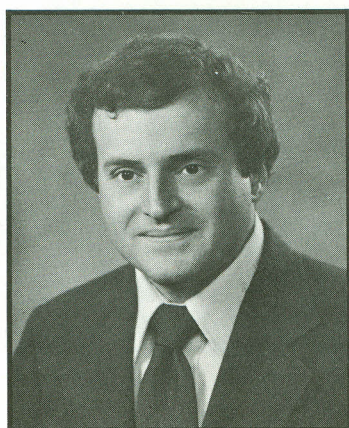
The radiology file room has a new coordinator, PHYLLIS TRUMBO. In this position, Trumbo will supervise the activities of the file room, will coordinate the schedules of the personnel working there, will serve as liaison with other units throughout the hospital, and will insure that the requests made by physicians and other hospitals for patient films are quickly processed. Trumbo started working at the Hospital Center in 1975 as a clerk in the clinical laboratory. In 1977 she transferred to the transcription unit in the pathology laboratory and remained there until her recent promotion to radiology file room coordinator. Before coming to the Hospital Center, Trumbo worked in the radiology department of Patterson Army Hospital at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, and then in the clinical laboratory at the Allentown Osteopathic Hospital.



Gale S. Hodavance

The annual health care conference of the Association for Consumer Research was the site of a presentation of a study conducted by GALE S. HODAVANCE, public relations director, and Thomas L. Parkinson, Ph.D., associate professor of marketing at Lehigh University. At this conference, held in Snowmass, Colorado, Parkinson presented their study into the impact of televising our 1982 annual report.

At a recent ceremony in Atlanta, Ga., JOSEPH PASCAL, M.D., was installed as a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. Pascal, who is a member of the medical staffs both here and at The Allentown Hospital, is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Urology. He completed a surgical residency at The Allentown Hospital and then went on to the State University of New York at Buffalo where he completed his urological training.



Joseph Pascal

The Hospital is possible we those

"The Auxilian - A Human 1983 Pennsylvania Association conference. And the program some of our auxiliary members. The success of a was highlighted in a presentation "Problems and Solutions" given by Tree Top Shop manager 198 J.D., director of legal affairs Hospital, discussed "The Le addition, one of our auxiliary past president of the auxiliary planning committee responsible together.



Betty Jane Petersen

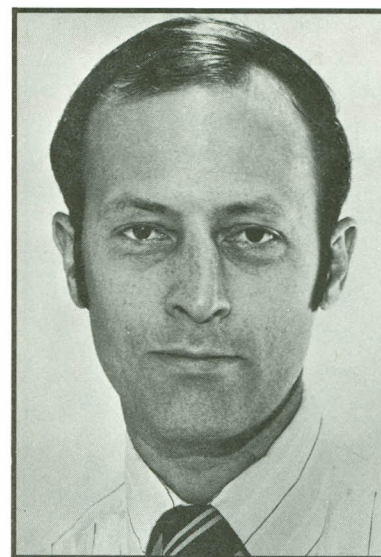


Janine Fiesta

tal Center ople... are people

resource" was the title of the
of Hospital Auxiliaries annual
included presentations by
and one of our staff
auxiliary's Tree Top Shop
on entitled "Gift Shops -
by BETTY JANE PETERSEN,
1984, and JANE MARTINDELL,
1983. JANINE FIESTA, R.N.,
here and at The Allentown
Aspects of Gift Shops." In
members, HELEN HALLOCK,
was a member of the
putting the conference

The Hospital Center was well represented on the faculty of a discharge planning workshop held in Hazleton by the Pennsylvania State University. MARY ANN GERGITS, R.N., discharge planning coordinator, addressed the conference on "High Risk Screening Criteria." MARY KOSAR, A.C.S.W., assistant director, department of social services and utilization review, spoke on the "Dynamics of an Interdisciplinary Team." VAUGHN GOWER, F.H.F.M.A., controller, discussed the "Impact of the Perspective Reimbursement System." And FLORENCE BROWN, R.N., M.S.Ed., nursing consultant, closed the conference with a presentation entitled "How to Stay Sane." In addition to speaking at the conference, Brown was a member of the planning committee that put the conference together.



Geoffrey G. Hallock

During a recent visit to New England, GEOFFREY G. HALLOCK, M.D., had the opportunity to address his former colleagues at the Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital, a Dartmouth Affiliated Hospital, in Hanover, New Hampshire. The opportunity came in the form of an invitation to do a surgical grand rounds presentation at the hospital where Hallock was a surgical resident from 1975-1979 and was chief resident from 1979-1980. Hallock spoke about his efforts to develop a surgical technique to repair cleft lip abnormalities without scarring.

Three years ago JUDY NATALE, educational development, decided to take the plunge. She joined the Coopersburg Ambulance Corps so she could put to use the first aid training she had received a few years earlier. Since then, Natale, a certified EMT, has become more and more involved in the corps. Recently she was elected to serve a second term as secretary for the 30 member corps. Citing the sense of satisfaction that comes from being able to help and the spirit of family that exists within the corps, Natale shrugs off the amount of time her involvement requires. In fact, in the future she is thinking about increasing her involvement by signing up for paramedic training.

PETER A. KEBLISH, M.D., was a recent speaker at the Third World Congress of the Knee sponsored by the International Society of the Knee in Gleneagles, Scotland. Keblish spoke on "Soft Tissue Problems and the Complex or Difficult Total Knee Replacement." Keblish is currently secretary/treasurer of the Pennsylvania Orthopedic Society, vice president of the Lehigh Valley Orthopedic Association, president-elect of the Philadelphia Orthopedic Society, and a recent appointee to the Regional Admissions Committee of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons.



Jane Martindell



Helen Hallock

NSRP: Another choice added

Here's some good news about NSRP. As a result of intense lobbying by the Hospital Center, the insurance company managing NSRP for us, the American United Life Insurance Company (AUL), has agreed to a fourth way for you to handle the money in your account.

You can now elect to take your money out in 15 equal monthly payments. And if you choose this option, you'll be able to get your accumulated interest as well as the money you and the hospital have contributed.

If you decide to go this route, you will receive your first check in February or March, 1984, and your last check in April or May, 1985. Remember, the addition of this option does not change your income tax liability. The money in your account, both principal and interest, is tax sheltered while it remains in the account. When you take it out, you have to declare it as income and pay the appropriate taxes.

The new option does have a built in tax advantage though. Because you will be getting your money over a 15 month period, the taxes will be paid in two separate years. This may reduce the impact of the added income.

So the options now available to you are: leave your NSRP money where it is, roll it over into a new TSA, withdraw it in a lump sum, or withdraw it over a 15 month period. Anyone who already chose one of the three original options can change their choice to the new option. For further information or to schedule an appointment, contact the personnel office at Ext. 8800 or Ext. 8844.

New housekeeping director joins staff



Richard Clayton

by Colleen Glynn, Public
Relations Intern

Someone new sits behind the desk of the director of housekeeping. Richard Clayton assumed the position after his predecessor, John Coffman, was transferred to another organization within the Crothall Company, an independent company that provides the hospital with housekeeping administrative services.

Before coming to the Hospital Center, Clayton served as director of housekeeping at Ancora State Hospital, a psychiatric hospital in New Jersey, and as director of housekeeping at Columbus Developmental Center, a psychiatric hospital in Columbus, Ohio. At both of these institutions, Clayton was responsible for employee schedules, ordering supplies, maintaining equipment, and other administrative duties.

Here at the Hospital Center, Clayton's responsibilities will be similar but more complicated because of the special needs of our critical care units. For example, housekeepers in these units have to take special precautions to insure sterile conditions.

Clayton feels positive about his staff because they are well trained and are knowledgeable about hospital functions. He is concerned that the important job they do is sometimes taken for granted. He hopes that he can get more feedback from other departments to pass on to his staff.

On the boardwalk

The Recreation Committee is sponsoring a super special trip to Caesar's Hotel & Casino on Sunday, January 29, 1984. The bus will leave the Hospital Center at 4:30 P.M. with approximate arrival in Atlantic City at 7:00 P.M. The return bus home will leave Atlantic City at 11:00 P.M., with approximate arrival back at the Hospital Center at 1:30 A.M.

The cost of this trip is only \$4.00 per person with a \$10.00 cash rebate upon arrival. For reservations, contact Inez Mistretta at Ext. 8980. Deadline for reservations is Friday, January 6, 1984.

New procedure for filing medical claims

The discount we get for medical care received here and at The Allentown Hospital is a nice benefit. But it can also be a real nightmare for the business office.

The nightmare arises when employees handle payment for this treatment in different ways. In the past, some employees have paid when they were treated and then submitted the receipt for reimbursement. Others asked to receive bills which they paid and then submitted. Still others merely had the hospital handle the whole thing.

Under the new medical insurance program, using these different variations is not possible. As a result, the business office is offering a deal that you can't refuse.

If you or a covered family member has to be treated here or at The Allentown Hospital, all you have to do is put your name and social security number on the claim form. You then assign your medical benefits to the hospital where you are being treated. In exchange for your cooperation, the business office will take care of filling out the rest of your claim form.

The business office is also asking that you tell admitting immediately that you are an employee or a covered member of an employee's family. When this isn't done, a lot of the paperwork has to be changed. If you have any questions about this change, contact the personnel office at Ext. 8844.

Recreation Committee sponsors trip to Florida

Join us in a fun-filled fantasy for five days and four nights at Walt Disney World featuring EPCOT, the Experimental Prototype Community of Tomorrow. This exciting trip, from Tuesday, March 6, to Saturday, March 10, 1984, includes the following:

- * Roundtrip jet air transportation via AIR-ONE to Orlando, Florida.*
- * Accommodations for four nights at the DUTCH INN, a deluxe resort hotel conveniently located in Lake Buena Vista, with complimentary transfers to Walt Disney World/Epcot.*
- * Roundtrip transfers from the airport to your hotel with bags delivered directly to your room.*
- * Full American Breakfast Daily.*
- * Three Disney World Dinner Coupons.*
- * Walt Disney World 3-Day World Pass which allows interchangeable multiple visits at both the MAGIC KINGDOM and EPCOT, with connecting monorail service between the two.*

** All taxes for air and land transportation, as well as for hotel accommodations and meals.*

** All gratuities for included meals.*

The prices for this exceptional trip is \$434.00 per person (double occupancy), \$414.00 per person (triple and quad occupancy), \$544.00 per person (single occupancy), and \$364.00 for children when sharing the room with two triple-pay adults.



*Photo courtesy
of Walt Disney World*

Bus transportation will be provided by the Recreation Committee to transport passengers to and from the Philadelphia Airport.

Space is limited, and reservations will be taken on a first come, first served basis with \$100.00 deposit per person.

For more information and reservations, contact Janet in the public relations office (Ext. 8900).

Update on paycheck changes

The new 1/10th of 1% state unemployment compensation tax, reported in the last issue of *Update*, won't be taken out of your pay as a separate deduction. It will be included as part of your state withholding.

That's the latest word from the business office. But even with this additional tax included, there is some good news. If you compare your 1984 paychecks with paychecks you received during the second half of 1983, you will probably see a reduction in the amount of money being withheld for state taxes.

The reason? When 1983 started, the state income tax rate was 2.2%. During the year, the legislature raised the tax rate but they made the increase retroactive to the beginning of the year.

The tax rate was raised from 2.2% to 2.45%. But since the increase was retroactive, the hospital actually had to withhold 2.8%. This way everyone ended the year having paid an average of 2.45% for the full year.

With the start of a new calendar year, the amount being withheld for state income tax can be dropped to 2.45%. With the addition of the new unemployment compensation tax, 2.55% of your pay, instead of 2.8%, will be withheld for state taxes.

You will see the addition of the new unemployment compensation tax and the reduction of the state income tax rate in the paycheck which you receive on January 6. Other changes that you will also see in this check are the new pay rates, the elimination of the NSRP deduction, and the start of Social Security (FICA) deductions.

The business office has also announced that the \$10.00 occupational privilege tax won't be taken out of the paycheck which you receive on January 6. It will be taken out of the second 1984 paycheck, received on January 20. This will give everyone a chance to adjust to their new takehome pay rates.

Lehigh Valley Hospital Center
a subsidiary of HealthEast, Inc.
P.O. Box 689
1200 S. Cedar Crest Blvd.
Allentown, PA 18105

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